

Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 DLOS-04 SAL-01 OFA-01 EB-07

COME-00 INT-05 CG-00 DOTE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 (ISO) W

----- 114453

O R 151537Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5961

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

CNO WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0080

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS PFOR IC UK NATO

SUBJECT: ICELAND-UK FISHERIES DISPUTE: BRITISH REPORT ON LUNS
CONSULTATIONS

REF: REYKJAVIK 0074 (DTG 141655Z JAN 76)

1. BRITISH DCM BRIEFED EMB DCM ON TALK BETWEEN NATO SEC GEN LUNS
AND BRITISH AMB EAST EVENING OF JAN 14. LUNS REPORTED AS SAYING HE
WAS "APPALLED" AT SITUATION HE FOUND ON ARRIVAL HERE. WHILE BOTH
PRIME MINISTER HALLGRIMSSON AND MIN JUSTICE JOHANNESSEN HAD WELCOMED HIM
INDIVIDUALLY AND LED HIM TO BELIEVE VISIT MIGHT BE USEFUL IN
RESOLVING FISHERIES DISPUTE WITH BRITISH, HE HAD FOUND
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COMPLETE INTRANSIGENCE IN FORMAL SESSION. THEY HAD STRESSED

SERIOUSNESS OF SITUATION WITH PROBABILITY OF BREAK IN RELATIONS IF BRITISH NAVAL VESSELS NOT IMMEDIATELY WITHDRAWN. THEY HAD, HOWEVER, REFUSED ANY HOPE THAT SUCH WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE RECIPROCATED BY RESTRAINT ON FISHING GROUNDS OR EVEN BY WILLINGNESS TO HOLD BILATERAL TALKS WITH BRITISH. LUNS TOLD ICELANDERS HE HAD ACCEPTED THEIR INVITATION TO VISIT ICELAND IN HOPE HE COULD PLAY SOME LIAISON ROLE BETWEEN UK AND GOI BUT HE COULD NOT PUT HIMSELF IN POSITION OF BEARING ICELANDIC ULTIMATUM TO LONDON.

2. BRITISH EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN DEPARTING FOR COPENHAGEN JAN 16 AND WILL TRAVEL ON TO BRUSSELS. THEREFORE, UNLESS THERE SHOULD BE SOME IMMEDIATE AND UNFORESEEN DEVELOPMENT REQUIRING RAPID CONSULTATION, LUNS WILL NOT GO TO LONDON BUT WILL MEET CALLAGHAN IN BRUSSELS EARLY NEXT WEEK.

3. BRITISH EMBASSY ALSO HAD REPORT FROM BONN RE ROUND OF VISITS BY MFA SEC GEN PETUR THORSTEINSSON. THORSTEINSSON REPORTEDLY STRESSED TO GERMANS SERIOUSNESS OF SITUATION AND URGENCY OF REMOVAL OF BRITISH NAVAL VESSELS BUT COULD GIVE NO INDICATION OF ANY STEPS GOI WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE IN RETURN.
IRVING

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